

## PAKISTAN IN US'S STRATEGIC REORIENTATION AND CHINESE COUNTER NARRATIVE: THE GEO- STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF ASIA-PACIFIC

Hikmat Shah Afridi\*  
Manzoor Khan Afridi\*\*

### Abstract

*The concept of Asia-Pacific crop up in 1960s and 1970s when the US, Japan and Australia ventured to build a special region of East Asia. Politically, the concept Asia-Pacific constitutes the involvement of US in the affairs of East Asia. Being a driving force, this region is one of the most momentous regions where three eminent economies i.e. US, China, and Japan are located. The population being 1/3rd of the entire global population is puffed up who amazingly speak over 3000 different languages. Moreover, Southeast Asia is playing an important role in the world's economy that produces approximately 1/4th of the international exports. In the recent past, Europe and US were the hub of the trading activities but now the centre of the economic activities has been shifting to Asia-Pacific.*

*Pakistan is located in the southern peripherals of Asia-Pacific, from where the major economic activities are initiated. Geographically Pakistan is an important country for the strategies of US and China being undertaken. Power Transition Theory being a theoretical framework of the paper, argues that power preponderance is the key element that makes or breaks the peaceful international order. Realism prefers a stable equilibrium of power but balance and parity don't have homogeneity therefore should not be mixed up. During power transition, China and US can reduce the chances of war in an uncertain situation but for this a better course of action will have to be worked out. Similarly, side lining China will have repercussions for maintenance of status quo and its incorporation will reduce its discontentment to challenge international order. In this context, to know the role of Pakistan, the study will unfold how best Pakistan can play its part in the developmental activities of Asia-Pacific region.*

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\* PhD Scholar IR International Islamic University Islamabad

\*\* Associate Professor IR, International Islamic University Islamabad

**Keywords**

Southeast Asia, CPEC, SLOC, Asia-Pacific, Europe, US, China Pakistan, India.

**Introduction**

The foyer of globalization has already been passed over by the World. The act is consequent to pay out the European's business enterprise and market connections analogous to the bountiful possessions of the region. Asia-Pacific region comprises thirty six states, attained massive inhabitations accounting to four billion people making them 65 per cent of the world population. The significance of demography can be seen from the point of ethnic diversification where about 3000 different languages are spoken. (Moon, 2012, p. 35). Moreover, one third of the entire global inhabitants are situated solely in East and Southeast Asia that produces approximately one fourth of the international exports. Juxtaposing, the region is loquacious and garrulous region coving to 22 percent of land of the world where three big economies of the world are located i.e. Japan, China and US. (Bana, 2016, pp. 8-12) The region is unquestionably positioned at the junction of Africa, Europe, North America, East Asia and Middle East.

The documented six major SLOCs and six largest ports of world are signifying the very importance of the region. On the whole "the Strait of Malacca" is main oceanic choke point located in the entrance of Southeast Asia through which as many as 600 oil tankers ply on a daily basis. (UNDP, 2010, p. 34) The economic development of the region, the astounding assemblage of demography, the purposeful *raison d'être* of different states are beguiling the region on frontward role. On the other hand, "The state controlled institutions have possessed assets valued approximately over US \$ 6 trillion foreign exchange, counted to be two-third of the entire global assets therefore making the region to be highly conducive for free trade agreements." (Sachs, 2017, p. 13) Correspondingly, with the development in economic field, the nucleus of trade will be by and large transferred to this region by 2050. Pakistan is located in the southern peripherals of Asia-Pacific, from where the major economic activities are initiated. (Delaney, 2018, p. 10-13)

**Asia-Pacific - the Insightfulness of Sub-regions:**

Asia-Pacific region is comprised of four major regions; Southeast Asia, North East Asia, South Asia and Oceania. The entire region is largely peaceful however possibility of incongruities is

capricious. Though there is no probability of conflict environment among the regional countries, however, miscalculations to the effect can lead to unlimited devastation. To curb such tendency and to maintain the prevalent environment of friendship, assorted dialogues have been organized among regional states. US while taking the assistance of the existing regional organizations has been facilitating the proceedings. While talking on regional perspective, two significant activities have influenced the existing security order of the entire region. These two events are; Mr Trump's leaving of Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and Mr Xi Jinping's initiation of One Belt and One Road (OBOR).

Consequent to these major events initiatives by major powers, the regional countries have redesigned their strategic orientation. Regional countries including US's allies have been watching carefully the ambiguous assurances of US in the wake of Chinese billions of offers in the fields of rail and road network. (Li, 2017, pp. 34-45) This Chinese initiative will mean to be undoing the regional order. "Trump's America First Policy and Xi's Policy of deep pockets for China's neighbours have already made several US loyalists to recalibrate their alliances." (Khasru, 2017, p. 2) The President of Philippines, Mr Rodrigo Duterte has revolutionized the environment in spite of having differences on various issues with China like Scarborough Shoals etc who has gratified the initiative of signing bilateral agreement. (Khasru, 2017, pp. 2-6) Notwithstanding with these development, "Will economic gains create sticky-enough glue to hold countries in the bloc together as they march unchartered territories, and respond to a surging China and a waning and unsure US?" (Lamba, 2018, p. 23)

### **Southeast Asia**

Southeast Asia comprises of Singapore, Malaysia Thailand, Vietnam, Laos, Indonesia, Philippines, Cambodia, Myanmar, and Brunei. This region has ensnared the policy makers of US, the most, because these countries have not only shown their strength in economic progression but also timely made their ingression in ASEAN and other regional organizations. (Bagchi, 2017, p. 12) Adherence to their national interests, US has conferred bilateral defence agreements with Philippines and Thailand. In this direction, it is more important for US for maintenance of peaceful and stable environment in the region.

US is either affianced with Philippines and Thailand through defence agreements or physically presence in cases where inking of defence agreements may not be in its national interests or the regional countries don't wish such agreements. (Albert, 2017, pp. 4-9) Even

though, Southeast Asia sub region is renowned due to internal turbulences and insurgency situations in various states like Myanmar, Thailand, Indonesia and Philippines. Despite the fact that all leading powers are taking sufficient interests for the resolution of the problems but violent incidents enfolding religious or ethnic delineation. Such environment speaks itself the pitiable distortions of frail safekeeping state of affairs brazen out towards transnational terrorizations. It is incredible of having high-plastering natural wherewithal but the unfortunate state of affairs consequential to none of any useful marketing. (Bana, 2016, pp. 8-12)

### **Northeast Asia**

Northeast Asia integrates together the rising economies like Russia, North Korea, China, Mongolia, Taiwan, Japan and Republic of Korea. The region is significant due to the involvement of regional powers in the conflict zone sidelining even the existence of three largest economies. (Legro, 2007, pp. 525-526) In the region, major source of instability is North Korea being dissatisfied state. Similarly, due to regional disputes and other disagreements, hostilities may take place eminently. Proven to disputes statistics, incongruously the region is lacking clashes managing organizations so that incongruity etc can be judiciously handled. Watchful advancing in poor managed areas for the application of elements of national power will eventually be needed. To maintain better environment regional states should persuade intermittent efforts for integrating economic activities under a framed regional forum.

### **South Asia and the Dilemma of Tryst of Destiny - Pakistan versus India**

South Asia is an important sub-continent where two nuclear powers India and Pakistan are located. It is 3.5 percent of global land area where twenty four percent of the world population live making it to be 1.76 billion people. Muslims are preponderant and imperious in number in this region. The states of the South Asia are; Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Maldives, Nepal, India, Bhutan, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan. Although the region has major population and better economies but South Asia could not come up to an expected level because of inter states disputes therefore the security situation in the region is not desirable. Due to the poor relations among the states, the area could not progress well. Bilateral relations among the states either don't exist or will have to take much of time to be established because of too much involvement of India in the internal affairs of the regional

states therefore none of the economic initiatives is successful. (Farooq & Javed, 2018, p. 35)

Long time back the combined population of subcontinent fought against British in South Asia. However, the people subdivided to be part of the two dominions Pakistan and India. On the inception in August 1947, both the countries have been involved in altercations from border skirmishes to full-fledged wars on one or other pretexts. The major source of dispute prevailing in the region is the Kashmir issue between nuclear India and Pakistan. People don't anticipate any solution on border disputes and Kashmir because political parties believe their end game if the imposed solution goes against the wishes of the population. Efforts were undertaken through states organs and track - II diplomacies to normalize the situation between the two countries but none-stake-holders always create an environment of mistrust to detract the efforts thereby taking hostage the entire course.

On the context of regional politics, Indians have been undertaking covert operations inside Pakistan through its main camps in the shape of consulates in Afghanistan. In spite of pursuing the fact findings on this Indian involvement in the internal affairs to the international community, India has been initiating anti Pakistan activities on one or other pretexts. At the moment, Pakistan is in state of war like situation with India because their blame game will have to go a long way making extreme war hysteria. (Malik, 2019, pp. 59-76) Pakistan has been facing affliction at the hands of international community including the US. Additionally the fact can be verified that when both India and Pakistan crossed the threshold of nuclear proliferation, US closed its eyes over Indian nuclear advancement whereas Pakistan had been placed under various embargos.

The recent attacks on convoy of ICRC at Pulwama and the incident of Pathankot have reversed the situation from friendly to antagonism while threatening each other with dire consequences leading to nuclear war. Much of the diplomatic efforts and other inter-governmental relations between the two sides are at the lowest ebb. Improvement in bilateral relations between them is futuristically bleak. A much needed effort will be required to create an environment of trust through confidence building measures so that people of South Asia could see long awaited peaceful and stable environment in the region. (Kanwal, 2018, pp. 3-9)

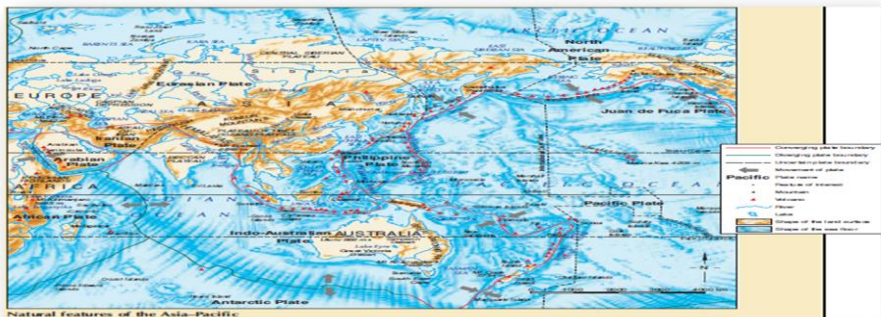
### **The Geostrategic Significance of Asia-Pacific**

Asia-Pacific region spreads over 2.8 billion hectares of land that makes about 22 percent of world's land area. It possesses

enormous immensity because its limits end as far as Pakistan in the West, states of Oceania Iceland in the East, Mongolia in the North and New Zealand in the South. (Sutter, 2009, p. 76) It enfolds the heterogeneity of mixed assortments as it dappled with lofty plateaus and mountains and wrapped with hot and sticky barren deserts and semi-prolific deserts. The serfdoms bordered by different states are the detritus of physical, religious, economic, cultural and political allurements of their consolidation. (Tsamenyi, 2010, p. 67). Moreover, the region is specifically swerving in stipulations of physical features to enclose varied ecological stuff that assemblages from stifling plains to jungles and forest to deserts. (Lohman, 2007, pp. 1-9)

The regional states to a great extent are dependent on available shipping corridors identified as “Sea Lanes of Communication (SLOC)”. To explain the term SLOC, a military man puts in plain words, “SLOC is an instrument of power and the surrounding geography becomes the pivot where forces should be deployed.” The people representative scrutinizes, “SLOC signifies the state of relations with other countries located along the sea route being traversed, and statistician prioritizes, SLOC is just the short and most economically travelling distance between two destinations.” (Cheong & Tongzon, 2013, 144-170) While meriting these explanations, it is clarified that for multiparty system, the security of SLOC as anticipated to be the storming of a locality to interfere in the domestic dealings of countries. To curb the tendency, the guiding principles on Sea Lanes of Communication should be outlined across-the-board.

**Map of Natural Features of Asia-Pacific**



Source: www. fao.org

## The Social Development and Incremental Economic Integration of ASEAN

The region has been branded with various heterogeneous cultures because it is open to the rest of the regions for mainly due to its societal and economic development. Notwithstanding, its indigenous ethnicity has been perpetuated in different parts of the region. Additionally, it is easy to expose much of the past agendas alongside the conformities of the main aspects in other parts of the region. (He, 2008, pp. 489-518) Keeping the prospects of regional trade, there are a number of regional countries having moderate population, requisite investors and consumers. In this direction, roughly 1071.1 million people are residing in this region to include 261.2 million Indonesian, 210 million Pakistani, 101 million of Vietnams and 501 million of ASEAN. (Albert, 2017, pp. 4-9)

Much of the weight-ages are given to the skilled and unskilled population of a country therefore the factor of population is highly credited for establishment of friendly and economic relations. (He & Yang, 2015, pp 416–424) While considering the societal sustainability and manageability, this region resides with a number of metropolitan cities of the world, “while counting world’s metropolitan cities, twenty largest cities of the world, nine are located in Asia-Pacific.” (Blanchard, 2016, pp. 5-7) The economic progression is well within the scope and respective population is taking enough part in the development of the regional states.(Green & Goodman, 2015, pp. 19-34)

**Table. Asia-Pacific States’ GDPs**

	Actual Data and Latest Projections			
	2012	2013	2014	2015
<b>Asia</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>5.6</b>
<b>Emerging Asia<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>6.6</b>
Australia	3.6	2.1	2.7	2.8
Japan	1.8	1.6	-0.1	1.0
New Zealand	2.4	2.2	3.2	2.9
<b>East Asia</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>6.3</b>
China	7.8	7.8	7.4	6.8
Hong Kong SAR	1.7	2.9	2.3	2.8
Korea	2.3	3.0	3.3	3.3
Taiwan Province of China	2.1	2.2	3.7	3.8
<b>South Asia</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>7.3</b>
Bangladesh	6.3	6.1	6.3	6.8
India	5.1	6.9	7.2	7.5
Sri Lanka	6.3	7.3	7.4	6.5
Nepal	4.8	3.9	5.5	5.0
<b>ASEAN</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>5.1</b>
Brunei Darussalam	0.9	-1.8	-0.7	-0.5
Cambodia	7.3	7.4	7.0	7.2
Indonesia	6.0	5.6	5.0	5.2
Lao People’s Democratic Republic	7.9	8.0	7.4	7.3
Malaysia	5.6	4.7	6.0	4.8
Myanmar	7.3	8.3	7.7	8.3
Philippines	6.8	7.2	6.1	6.7
Singapore	3.4	4.4	2.9	3.0
Thailand	6.5	2.9	0.7	3.7
Vietnam	5.2	5.4	6.0	6.0

Source: [www.imf.org](http://www.imf.org)

The huge population, high growth rate, Socio-economic environment, an analogous diverseness of plenteous and natural wherewithal together with large quantity of mineral resources have well-supplemented the region. After outshining the growth rate of the world, the region has been successfully upholding its towering financially viable progression over the last four decades. Additionally, the region is renowned as “growth centre of the global economy and this growth rate is predicted to be maintained.” (Kim, 2016, pp. 19-37) While summing up the whole region, the most important descriptions are the economic development, intraregional trade and the magnificent regional interdependence. (Hirsch, 2016, pp. 63-74)

Asia-Pacific has already achieved 5.5 percent growth rate in year 2018 and expected to be maintained in 2019. Asia-Pacific’s economy will balance the economies of North and South Americas and will cross the Western European’s economy by 2025. (Alwafi, 2017, pp. 4-9) Regardless of market’s overcrowding in flow of capitals, the markets have achieved malleability in Asia. Mostly the regional states have put into practice the accessibility policies for their markets integration so that economic liberalization of the region can be exploited. (Llorito, 2018, p. 1-2) In acquiring satisfactoriness in communication arrangements, the response strategy of regional countries has been bloated while transshipping in major waters.

### **The Integration of Resources in Trade and Investment through Multilateral Initiatives**

Undeniably, the rapidness of economic amalgamation in the Asia-Pacific has gone faster whereas a few of the new frameworks have attained their finishing point. The TPP stretched exponentially with the new entry of Mexico, Canada and Japan into the negotiations for the year 2012 and 2013. A few years back, Washington advised other US’s allies in Asia; Philippines, Thailand and South Korea to confirm their entry. Since US-South Korea has already been entered into Free Trade Agreement therefore, Seoul may join TPP any time. However, Bangkok and Manila are not as much of the probable contestants. The Philippines will have to bring constitutional changes in the law for foreign ownership, and there is little indication that President Rodrigo Duterte is keen to initiate an internal discourse to this effect. (Kaplan, 2019, p. 4)

Thailand was battered by an unproductive exertion to discuss bilateral free trade agreement (FTA) with US in 2000s. At the time of Mr. Barrack Obama, during his visit to Bangkok, the Thai Minister of



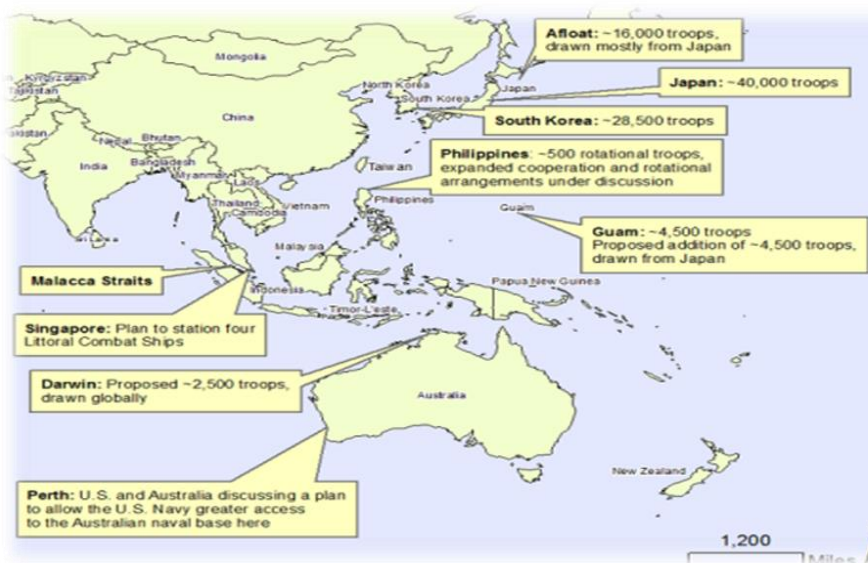
Commerce specified that Thailand would give its due consideration for joining TPP in November 2012. It was not clear whether TPP would achieve its cut-off dates with the available assemblage of delegates. South Korea, Japan and China have already decided in principle to initiate negotiations on a trilateral free trade agreement, but so far they have not reached on some prolific conclusion. For the time being, due to territorial disputes among these states, they may not reach on some workable plan on economic front. In addition, the withdrawal of US and the nonexistence of China in TPP, and the reflection to opposing the RCEP, encourage the discernments about the Sino-US contention in economic arena of the region. (Alwafi, 2017, pp. 4-9)

A promising framework of RCEP was initiated in 2013 in Phnom Penh. The RCEP has 10 ASEAN member states those are part of free trade agreements. (Yhome, 2017, p. 68) With US \$ 21.3 trillion joint GDPs from the member states, RCEP comprises the largest economic agreement in the world. Having conclusive and apparent paybacks to members in this economic giant, RCEP is wide-ranging and pleads a better tomorrow to smaller economies. In addition, RCEP take account of more than 45 percent of world's population. It is assessed, "Continued growth, particularly in China, India and Indonesia could see total GDP in RCEP growth to approximately US \$100 trillion by 2050, roughly double the project size of TPP economies." (Wang, 2018, pp. 41-53) The future of RCEP is bright as compared to TPP because, US has withdrawn from the membership of TPP in January 2017.

### **The Power Outcropping of US and the Chinese Counter Narrative in Asia-Pacific**

US always believes the practicability of its hard power to foretell in Asia-Pacific as the pivot. The objective of US to be present in the region as balancer was to retain balance of power in its favour. To achieve the purpose, military deployment was undertaken accordingly. To reinforce this superior strategic orientation, in addition to the already deployed forces, the deployment of strong military contingent comprising of hundred thousand men in South Korea and Japan, was an unambiguous manifestation to foretell hard power in Asia-Pacific. (Boden, Andres, & Marland, 2015, pp. 45-67) Next to other significant facades of the guidelines, US will seize all available opportunities to safeguard its national interests. This may extend in the cases of rising China, the Russian's activism, an emerging Indian economy, the embryonic forceful Japan and resurgent Indonesia.

### Map: Military Forces Deployment of US in Asia-Pacific



Source: [www.aljazeera.com](http://www.aljazeera.com)

Berta Murillo Pardo (2013) explains, “It is a known fact that US’s aspirations are to develop equanimity among Indonesia, South Korea, Russia, India, Japan and China.” In addition, US desires to accomplish two major aims all the way through the US’s military deployment in the region; first to be available to influence other states at the time of need and second to keep an eye on Chinese amass. US does not have the benefit of monarchical liberties in Western Pacific after barring of self-governing liberties over Guam but still US will advocate long-lasting friendship with its allies for the pliability of “their defence partnerships”. In the alliance, Australia, Japan, and South Korea enjoy the stature of strategic allies. Similarly, towards the military deployment and inking of various defence packages, US maintains various stages of cooperation with Singapore, Thailand, and Philippines. (Albert, 2017, pp. 4-9)

Contrarily, Mr Donald Trump has already declared his eagerness to reduce the deployed US’s forces in the various theatres of war etc but strategists differ on the issue of reduction of US’s forces. Few of them believe that reduction in forces in the war zones never mean for US to play in hands of Chinese because they believe the

alliances to be a traditional trend of Cold War era. (Delaney, 2018, p. 10-13) Vincent Wang (2012) dilates upon, "In the prism of Liberalism, the Asian Century could be more harmonious due to the economic interdependence of states including US-China economic relations and those who are heavily dependent on the China." Side by side, multipolarity is thumping up its entry because of the transposing in the international power structure. This is the reason that the multilateralism in the forms of "Shanghai Cooperation, China-Japan-South Korea, ASEAN regional forum, the East Asia Summit and ASEAN+3" has been offering regional integration, harmonization and peaceful environment. (Hong, 2016, p. 35)

On the other hand, China is well placed to have a better environment after its economics progression, accessibility to international market and natural resources therefore, the power of China is legitimated in its plodding progress and budding economy. Totting up, China is possessing huge foreign exchange reserves to its credit. (Xin, 2019, pp. 2-6) In this day and age, China has been upholding its strategy to begin affable relations with all neighbouring states with whom she adopted the policy of friendship and cooperation. Similarly no state can have any option if it has with weak military status to dictate its options to resolve or assist in settling the various issues. (Mearsheimer, 2013, p. 71) Notwithstanding, even obtaining an equivalence in various fields by China, still it will be very difficult to count its moves for external balancing mainly due to international security environment. (Biden, 2015, pp. 22-24)

Stephen Roach (2016) clarifies, "China has been maintaining the policy to be stronger first because major powers would be then more accommodative towards China." Nonetheless, opposing US straight on was not an option and it will not an option on any forum in future as it was for the duration of its "unipolar moment" of unmatched power indemnity because no alternate option is available for espousal. The Chinese international politics has always been to play unremittingly its role for a stable, prosperous and peaceful world. To safeguard Chinese well-engrossed progression, its strategists and military think tanks have been giving warnings to its leaders repetitively not to make a fuss with US in arms race. (Arezki & Blanchard, 2017, pp. 13-25)

An approach of Bamboo Curtain was endorsed during bygone Cold War, "The Cold War political demarcation was done between the Communist States of East Asia, particularly China and the capitalists and non communist states of the region, the Soviet Union, Vietnam, India, Japan, and Indonesia etc." (Kanwal, 2018, pp. 3-9)

Under an outlandish observable term of Bamboo Curtain, the Korean Military Split up Zone hunched as an indication of splitting up of Korean Isthmus. The effervescent sub-heading “Bamboo Curtain” borrowed in 20th century from the expression, “Iron Curtain”, which was used largely in West to identify the Communists’ precincts. It is explained as “During Cultural Revolution, China had placed, sections of the curtain under a lock-down, to block any entry or exist from the boundaries of the country without proper permits.” (Du, 2015, pp. 429-430) However, the emigrants to Hong Kong were given the exemption from such restriction.

Contrarily, the resurgence of China as a rising power has been associated with the term “String of Pearls, the Chinese strategy”. This strategy counters the US’s superiority to control the “major Sea Lanes of Communication in the region.” (Buttonwood, 2017, p. 69) To this end, US pursued a strategy to contain China named as, “New Bamboo Curtain Strategy” prevailing over the entire world. This strategy certified the US role to interrupt supplies of oil to any country including China during transshipment through Malacca Strait. “To counter the US strategy, China has been positioning itself in a series of ports starting from Persian Gulf till South China Sea including the construction of China-Myanmar pipeline, ports of Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Pakistan.” (Bagchi, 2017, p. 12)

### **Significance of Pakistan and its Potentials in the Development of Asia-Pacific**

On the inception of Pakistan on 14 August 1947, its foreign policy was founded on basic values of cooperation and friendship. Pakistan remained eager to establish friendly relations with regional and international players. The US, China, and Russia were imperative mainstays in the up-and-coming regional security and economic order. On the other hand, Pakistan has been fighting terrorism for two decades whose approximately pecuniary loss of US \$100 billion and non-financial loss of about 50,000 lives. To be able to coup up to the requirement, Pakistan has been conducting Strategic Dialogues with China and the US whereas Russia has been kept on the loop of robust ties. In the past, the US re-affirmed its support for APTTA, CASA-1000 and TAPI natural gas pipeline projects. In the milieu of growing politico-economic upbringing, the geo-strategic importance of Pakistan is well acknowledged. (Kanwal, 2018, pp. 3-9)

The Pakistan’s inimitable geography is at the crossroads of entire Asia especially the Asia-Pacific, gifted it to have an advantageous position. On the other hand, Pakistan invigorated on

becoming ally in GWOT; doing so Pakistan did not realize the indifferent attitude of US when Soviet withdrew from Afghanistan. (Lamba, 2018, p. 23) After fulfilling much of the do more insistence, Pakistan has also been fighting various factions endangering own sovereignty at the cost but instead crediting the huge losses in lives and on economic grounds, Pakistan has been blamed for either siding or doing no more for them. From all these negativities of US, it is revealed that these were enthused by fluker go round and only restricted to self-interested agenda so that Pakistan could be used and reused irrespective of dire consequences to its sovereignty. Similarly, the situational power politics by US in favour of India to declare it as Nuclear State to rise its influence as regional power in place of China has never been accepted by Pakistan and China. (Rozman, 2013, p. 56)

Pakistan's strategic position will not yield dividends but it will happen only if the required investments are done in economic corridors, regional connectivity, and transport and communications network including road and rail networks to China, Central Asia and ASEAN states. (Saad, 2016, pp. 23-56) Pakistan has made economic initiative with China through economic partnership named as China Pakistan Economic Corridor. In this way, Pakistan is making its way to be the doorway to landlocked Central Asia whereas ASEAN region will be linked to Central Asian's markets through CPEC. Additionally, the internal and external economic activities are conducted in Pakistan through regional connectivity. The Maritime Silk Route and Silk Road Economic Belt converge in Pakistan and the US \$ 50 billion worth economic corridor is game changer for the entire region. (Yamin & Faryal, 2019, p. 64)

In future, the major driving force of economic growth will be transport and trade. Pakistan has been providing window to the warm waters to the extent to some part of Urals and Siberia. Southern routes are open extended prospects for trading and contacting South and Southeast Asia. A textile market can increase the regional trade manifold and will lead towards economic integration and cooperation in other areas of interest like minerals, hydroelectric power, jewellery, software technology, tourism and natural gas and oil. Similarly significant development of a knowledge infrastructure, promotion of export oriented industry and sustenance to enhance competitiveness are the milestones of Pakistan. (Alwafi, 2017, pp. 4-9) In nutshell, Pakistan can play vital role in all the spheres of US Strategic Reorientation and Chinese Counter Narrative.

## Conclusion

Asia-Pacific enfolds the heterogeneity of mixed assortments as it dappled with lofty plateaus and mountains and wrapped with hot and sticky barren deserts and semi-prolific deserts. Asia-Pacific region surmises as Geo-political, Geo-strategic, and Geo-economic leg rooms can be expressed as; first, deep-sea linked strategies related to maritime functioning by regional countries can connect them in shipping activities hence amply verifying the status of ocean as their lifelines. Second, incontestably for supremacy dynamics and premeditated links, the growing of capital flow with trading activities can be substantiated in region. Finally, the environment of rivalry due to territorial disputes among the neighbouring countries has been created due to the provocations hence the regional countries are more unsecured thereby appealing foreign power to meddle the regional disputes.

On the other hand, after the event of 9/11, the geo-strategic situation of the region has altered significantly. The new line of action of the regional states will entirely depend on the competitions concluded between China and US. China has been concentrating on the region to institute alliances that could cultivate her economic progression. China desires to continue its strict checks on extremist elements infiltrating to their country. Such arrangements have undermined the very importance of Pakistan for its domestic and regional politics. Similarly, US and China have been gazing more states for integration and cooperation in their billions dollars investment for sustainability and maintainability of their presence in the region. In South Asia, Pakistan has never been in the favourable list of US to be an all-weather friend therefore it is likely to show her back anytime.

The flight in relations among India, US, and China has incurably influenced Pakistan in the regional politics. Pakistan has always trusted China as counterbalance to India. Similarly, everlasting reliance on US has emanated nonentity rather it resulted into a cause of antipathy. Pakistan can persuade and encourage its own agenda openly if she upholds its domestic order and work for a peaceful environment within its territory. A sagacity of unsighted faithfulness towards many issues will show a way not needed to Pakistan into protracted trying conditions. Pakistan's strategic position will not yield dividends but it will happen only if the required investments are done in economic corridors, regional connectivity, and transport and communications network including road and rail networks to China, Central Asia and ASEAN states.

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